

DENVER, COLORADO
POST

E - 256,439

S - 344,155

JUN 7 1976

CIA 3.01.3 Journalists
ORIGINAL NEWS
Council

CIA, Press Links Aid Foes

Charges made in Moscow against three American newspaper journalists add importance to a meeting with CIA representatives requested by the National News Council headquartered in New York City.

The U.S. correspondents were accused by the Soviet Literaturnaya Gazeta, a weekly newspaper, of having links with the CIA and carrying out "hostile, subversive activity" against the Soviet Union.

The Gazeta's charges could be dismissed as a case of the pot calling the kettle black. But that would be a mistake, because they provide evidence that other nations will use reported—and

alleged—connections between the CIA and journalists to foment anti-American feelings.

The National News Council had requested a meeting with the CIA prior to the Gazeta's charges, but in the wake of a report by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities that perhaps 25 to 50 journalists are employed by the CIA in one capacity or another. The Council, an independent and voluntary organization, was established in 1973 to serve the public interest in preserving freedom of communication and advancing accurate and fair reporting of news.

In a letter requesting the meeting with the CIA, Council Chairman Stanley H. Fuld, said, "We are not seeking the names of individuals who may be, or may have been, employed by the CIA, but instead, a clearer exposition of existing relationships and the portent those relationships might hold for a free press in a free society."

CIA Director George Bush has indicated a willingness to respond to the Council's questions, but what the intelligence agency will reveal of its policy regarding employment of journalists remains to be seen. Bush already has said that, "effective immediately, (the) CIA will not enter into any paid or contractual relationship with any . . . news correspondent accredited by any U.S. news service, newspaper, periodical, radio or television network or station."

That should be an inviolable rule.

Although there are no doubt occasions when journalists could admirably serve CIA purposes, the necessity for a free press to remain free of any "entangling alliances" should also be an inviolable policy for persons engaged in gathering and writing news.

Both the CIA and the press are under attack, and both will be able to fend off their foes more effectively, by staying arms-length from each other.